

A SNAPSHOT OF

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON INITIATIVE

Overview

The Money Follows the Person Initiative (MFP) is a five-year grant award to shift Medicaid Long-Term Care from its emphasis on institutional care to home and community-based services. Currently, Georgia's \$1.5 billion in long-term care expenditures are 70 percent institutional, and 30 percent home and community-based services. The goal of the grant is to increase the percentage for home and community-based services to nearly 38 percent by October 2011. The MFP grant opportunity was made available as part of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of Fiscal Year 2006. Georgia's grant of over \$54 million in federal funds will operate through December 31, 2011.

Georgia's MFP Project


MFP is a joint effort between the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to transition 1,312 Georgians over four years from institutional settings to the community through Georgia's waiver programs, which include: the Independent Care Waiver Program, the Service Options Using Resources in a Community Environment program (SOURCE) and the New Options (NOW) and Comprehensive Waiver Programs (COMP).

- Eligible persons include those who have lived in a nursing facility or institution for at least six months and whose care has been covered by Medicaid in the months preceding their transition to home and community-based services
- Members must continue to meet institutional level of care criteria after transitioning to the community
- Target populations include older adults, adults and children with physical disabilities and/or traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and adults and children with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities
- MFP includes 15 new transition services to assist institutional members in resettling in the community. These services include one-time purchases of basic household items and furnishings, utility deposits, security deposits, transportation to assist in housing searches and limited funding for home environmental modifications. Most of these new transition services will be eligible for an enhanced federal match. In most cases, this enhanced match will reduce Georgia's share to less than 20 percent
- Through MFP, the state will establish a seamless information and referral process, transition coordinators, support services to ease transition, transition peer counselors and increased availability of affordable housing and transportation



MFP Transitions

Beginning September 1, 2008, eligible persons started transitioning into the community. In 2009, DCH proposes to transition 100 eligible persons with physical disabilities and/or TBI, 100 older adults, and 150 persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental retardation from institutions into the community. As of July 31, 2009, the MFP program has successfully transitioned 134 individuals back into their homes and communities.

 **For more information about the program**, please contact Alice Hogan at 404-651-6889, or e-mail her at ahogan@dch.ga.gov.